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8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA  
10

11 United States of America,  
12  
13 Plaintiff,  
14 vs.

15 Jayme Megan Estrada,  
16  
17 Defendant.

CR 22-01214-JCH-JR-002

**GOVERNMENT'S SENTENCING  
MEMORANDUM**

18 The United States of America, through its attorneys, respectfully submits its  
19 sentencing memorandum in the above-captioned matter. The sentencing hearing is  
20 currently scheduled for February 27, 2023.

21 **Presentence Report Calculations**

22 The presentence report (PSR) identifies a total offense level of 15 and a criminal  
23 history category II for the defendant resulting in a sentencing guideline range of 21 to 27  
24 months. The government agrees with these calculations. Under the plea agreement, the  
25 defendant's sentence cannot exceed the bottom of the applicable guideline range.

26 **Sentencing Factors**

27 Title 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) states that when imposing a sentence, a court shall  
28 consider "the nature and circumstances of the offense and the history and characteristics of

1 the defendant.” The sentence imposed shall reflect the seriousness of the offense, provide  
2 just punishment, afford adequate deterrence to further criminal conduct, and protect the  
3 public from further crimes of the defendant. 18 U.S.C. §3553(a)(2). The sentence shall also  
4 consider “the need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparities among defendants with  
5 similar records, who have been found guilty of similar conduct.” 18 U.S.C. §3553(a)(6).

6 The defendant and her husband (who is also her codefendant) were purchasing  
7 firearms for minors and others for an eight-month period. The defendant stated that several  
8 firearms she purchased were transferred to individuals who lived in California. The  
9 defendant lied about her address on each Form 4473 that’s he completed to purchase  
10 firearms. She admitted that she knew she was buying the firearms for minors who were too  
11 young to legally purchase them.

12 Straw purchasing and transfers of firearms to prohibited persons, including minors,  
13 contributes to gun violence in this country. In 2019, the USDOJ Bureau of Justice Statistics  
14 issued a study about the connection between firearms and violent crimes. “Source and Use  
15 of Firearms Involved in Crimes: Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016,  
16 <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/suficspi16.pdf> (last accessed 2/21/23). The study  
17 focused on firearm possession of prisoners during the offenses that led to their incarceration  
18 at both the federal and state level. Among prisoners who possessed a firearm during the  
19 commission of an offense, 90% did not obtain the firearm from a retail source. *Id.* p. 1.  
20 When a firearm is purchased from federal firearm licensees, a background check is  
21 conducted that is intended to prevent minors and other prohibited persons from purchasing  
22 firearms. Unscrupulous actors, like the defendants, who purchase firearms with the  
23 intention of transferring them to people who are prohibited by law from possessing  
24 firearms, bypass these safeguards. Without straw purchasers, it would be much more  
25 difficult for prohibited persons to get firearms.

26 The defendant did respond to a summons and appeared at her initial appearance.  
27 She was released on conditions. After a relapse she was placed at the Haven for substance  
28 abuse treatment. She completed the program but continued to use both fentanyl and

1 methamphetamine. Her release was revoked, and she has been in custody since November  
2 of 2022. The defendant has struggled with substance abuse and mental health issues for  
3 many years.

4 This case is also not the defendant's first felony. She was convicted of two felonies  
5 in Pima County Superior Court. She violated her probation and was sentenced to 30 months  
6 in prison.

7 **Recommendation**

8 The United States agrees with the reasoning and recommendation in the PSR and  
9 respectfully requests that the Court impose a sentence of 18 months. Such a sentence would  
10 be consistent with § 3553(a) factors. It would reflect the seriousness of the offense, promote  
11 respect for the law, and deter the defendant from committing further crimes.

12  
13  
14 Respectfully submitted this 21st day of February, 2023.

15  
16 GARY M. RESTAINO  
United States Attorney  
District of Arizona

17  
18 *s/Sarah B. Houston*

19 SARAH B. HOUSTON  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

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21 Copy of the foregoing served electronically or by  
other means this 21st day of February, 2023, to:

22 All ECF Participants  
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